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OIFIG AN AIRE GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2
DUBLIN 2

30 October, 1992

Mr. Dermot Aherne, T. D.,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

Dear Dermot,

I am writing with regard to your letter of 15 September concerning the remains of Tom Williams who was interred in Crumlin Road Jail in the 1940s. As I indicated in my letter to you of 9 October I had enquiries made about this case with the British authorities.

I have now been informed that consideration of the issue has revealed a number of procedural difficulties. These include such questions as existence of the appropriate legal authority to allow remains to be released as well as, in the Williams case, the issue of the party to whom the remains might be handed over. In any event it remains the case that the authorities have so far failed to locate Mr. Williams' remains. It seems unlikely therefore that there will be any early progress on this matter.

I hope this is helpful to you and if there are any further developments I will be happy to keep you informed.

Yours sincerely,

**DAVID ANDREWS T.D.**

David Andrews, T. D.
Minister for Foreign Affairs

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Secure Fax. 1226 Pages: 1

For: D. Kelleher From: B. O'Brien

Date: 9 October 1992

## LOG OF BRITISH REPLIES TO IRISH INITIATIVES

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|---|---|
| To: | Anglo Irish Section Dublin |
| Attention: | D. Kelleher |
| Date: | 9/10/92 |
| Serial No: | Log 1569 |
| Your Ref: | Remains of Tom Williams |
| Date reply received: | 6/10/92 |
| Text of reply: | As hereunder |

Extract from minute of briefing on Prisons on 6 October 1992

"Remains of Tom Williams

It is not clear who is entitled to the remains if they were released.

The initial approach came from the "Graves Committee of Irish Heroes" (translation from the Irish title); it is believed that not all of the Williams's family agree with a public removal and re-burial of the remains: rather, they are anxious that the remains be buried in a quiet way.

The NI Prison Service has no legal authority to release the remains (the situation is different in Britain where the Home Secretary does have statutory authority in this area).

In any event, the remains cannot be found."

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OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2
DUBLIN 2

October, 1992.

Mr. Dermot Aherne, T. D.,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

Dear Dermot,

I refer to your letter of 15 September, and to your letter of the same date addressed to the Taoiseach (a copy of which was transmitted to this Department), concerning representations which you have received with regard to the question of the removal of the remains of Tom Williams from Crumlin Road Jail.

I am at present having enquiries made about this matter with the British authorities through the framework of the Anglo-Irish Agreement and I will contact you again when further information is to hand.

Yours sincerely,

**DAVID ANDREWS T.D.**

David Andrews, T. D.,
Minister for Foreign Affairs.

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